

Spells in Harry Potter

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Spells in Harry Potter occur in the fictional universe of the series of books by author J. K. Rowling. Magic spells are used by many of the characters to achieve useful effects without the benefit of modern technology. The main depiction of a "spell" in the Harry Potter books consists of a gesture made with the character's wand, combined with a spoken or mental incantation. In the books and their associated film series, the names of the majority of these spells or the incantations used to effect them are derived from the Classical languages, particularly Latin^[1]. These names are not grammatically correct in any language; most spoken phrases *resemble* Latin words of appropriate meaning but are not proper Latin themselves.

In *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, the concept of casting spells nonverbally is introduced. Earlier, every spell cast by the principal characters had been accompanied by the appropriate voiced incantation, although advanced adult practitioners of magic had cast nonverbal spells in previous books. Consequently, the incantations used for some spells introduced in *Half-Blood Prince* and its sequel *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* are not known canonically.

Spells are listed here by their incantations (when known), with their vernacular names in parenthesis. Some spells have no known incantation – the only canonical reference is by an informal name, either because in its only appearance in the relevant book it was cast nonverbally, or because it was never depicted in the books, only mentioned. The majority of spells cast in duels between adult characters in all seven books appear nonverbally; such spells can be only identified by their effects.

Contents

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

Accio (Summoning Charm)

Pronunciation: Various suggestions have been made

[ˈakkio] (AK-ee-o) - classical Latin (film)

[ˈaksio] (AK-see-o) - (audio book, video game)

[ˈæsio] (AH-see-o) - (Scholastic) English

Description: This charm summons an object to the caster, potentially over a significant distance^[2].

Seen/Mentioned: First mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Harry summons his broom to complete the First Task of the Triwizard Tournament^[GF Ch.20]. Later in the same book Harry summons a Portkey he can't reach to escape from the Battle in the Graveyard. Also seen in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* to try to summon Horcruxes, and Harry even tries to summon a falling Hagrid, and later, his glasses, to comical effects^[DH Ch.4].

Suggested Etymology: The Latin word *accio* means "I call" or "I summon".^[3]

(Age-Line Spell)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Creates a line that is impassable by people below a set age.

Seen/Mentioned: Seen only in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Albus Dumbledore cast this spell to stop underage students from placing their names into the Goblet of Fire^[GF Ch.16].

Notes: Fred and George Weasley, along with several other students, attempted to (though underage) pass the line using age potions. Their attempts failed, showing that the line cannot be tricked by this spell.

Aguamenti

Pronunciation: AH-gwa-MEN-tee or AG-YOO-A-menti (IPA: /a.g^wə.'mɛn.ti/)

Description: Produces a jet of water from the witch or wizard's wand.

Seen/Mentioned: First named in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, Harry casts this spell in an attempt to create water for Dumbledore to drink after taking Voldemort's potion^[HBP Ch.26], and later to douse Hagrid's hut after it is set on fire^[HBP Ch.28]. Hermione uses it in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* to put out Mundungus's searing eyebrows.

Alohomora

Pronunciation: AL-lo-ha-MOR-ah (IPA: /ə'lo.hə.mo.ɹə/)

Description: Used to open and unlock doors,^[4] but doors may be bewitched so that this spell has no effect.

Seen/Mentioned: Used throughout the series, first use by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* on the door to the third floor corridor in Hogwarts^[PS Ch.9].

Suggested Etymology: "Aloha" which is Hawaiian for "good-bye" and "mora" which is Latin for "obstacles"

Anapneo

Pronunciation: ah-NAP-nee-oh (IPA: /ə.'næp.ni.əʊ/)

Description: Clears the target's airway, if blocked.

Seen/Mentioned: Shown in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, Horace Slughorn casts this spell on Marcus Belby when the latter begins to choke^[HBP Ch.7].

(Anti-Cheating Spell)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Cast on parchment or quills to prevent the writer from cheating while writing answers.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* as being cast on quills and exam papers for exams at Hogwarts^[PS Ch.16].

(Anti-Disapparition Jinx)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Used to prevent Disapparition in an area for a time. Presumably can be used to prevent an enemy from entering a defended area, or used to trap an enemy in an area.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, used by Albus Dumbledore to trap several Death Eaters in the Department of Mysteries^[OP Ch.36]. Also

cast long ago on Hogwarts, the reason why (As Hermione quotes innumerable times throughout the series) "No one can apparate or disapparate inside the Hogwarts grounds." In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Death Eaters had cast this spell, preventing the trio from escaping Hogsmeade.

(Antonin Dolohov's Curse)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: This curse causes serious internal injury, but does not show any external symptoms. It is described as cast with "a slashing motion", sending out a streak of purple flames.

Seen/Mentioned: Seen only in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, this spell is cast three times by Antonin Dolohov during the battle between the Death Eaters and members of Dumbledore's Army at the Ministry of Magic. All three times it is shown cast non-verbally, although one time this was due to Dolohov having previously been hit by the Silencing Charm and hence unable to speak.

Aporecium

Pronunciation: AH-par-EE-see-um (IPA: /æ.pə'ʃi.si.ʌm/)

Description: This spell makes invisible ink appear.

Seen/Mentioned: First seen in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, when Hermione tries to make hidden writing appear in Tom Marvolo Riddle's diary^[CS Ch.13].

Notes: See also *Specialis Revelio*.

(Atmospheric Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Presumably causes weather patterns to be created.

Seen/Mentioned: It was said in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* that a malfunction of this spell may have been causing offices in the Ministry of Magic to rain.

Avada Kedavra (Killing Curse)

Pronunciation: uh-VAH-dah kuh-DAHV-rah (IPA: /ə.'væ.də kə.'dæv.ɹə/)

Description: One of the three "Unforgivable Curses". Causes instant, painless death, and leaves no physical signs of cause of death. There is no described counter-curse or blocking spell, but it is shown that the spell can be blocked by physical cover^[OP Ch.36], and the caster is still required to aim to hit the target. Described effects include a flash of green light^[GF Ch.14] and a rushing sound, similar to an oncoming high-speed object^[GF Ch.1].

Seen/Mentioned: Throughout the series. This was the spell described as used to kill Harry's parents. Lord Voldemort is shown to kill many people with this curse.

Suggested Etymology: From the Aramaic אבדא כדברא *avada kedavra*, translated as "I destroy as I speak" or *Let the thing be destroyed*. "Abracadabra" means "begone like this word."^[5]

Avis

Pronunciation: AH-vis (IPA: /a'vis/)

Description: This charm creates a flock of birds which pour forth from the caster's wand. When coupled with *Oppugno*, it can be used offensively.

Seen/Mentioned: Shown in *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire*, cast by Mr Ollivander to

test Viktor Krum's wand^[GF Ch.18]. In *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince*, it is cast by Hermione, followed by *Oppugno* which causes the birds to attack Ron Weasley.^[HBP Ch.14]

B

(Banishing Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Opposite to "Accio".

Seen/Mentioned: Seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, cast by Hermione who perfectly banishes a cushion into a box which is their target in their Charms class.

(Bat-Bogey Hex)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Grotesquely enlarges the target's bogies (British slang for nasal mucus), gives them wings, and sets them attacking the target.

Seen/Mentioned: Ginny Weasley is depicted as an accomplished caster of this particular spell^[OP Ch.6]. She is shown to use it in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* on Draco Malfoy^[OP Ch.33], and in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* on Zacharias Smith^[HBP Ch.7] [6]

(Bedazzling Hex)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Similar to a *Disillusionment Charm*, it can be used to conceal a person or an object.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned only in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by Xenophilius Lovegood. Never cast in canon.

Notes: Is used to make invisibility cloaks.

(Bubble-Head Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Puts a large bubble of air around the head of the user. Used as a magical equivalent of a breathing set.

Seen/Mentioned: in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Cedric Diggory and Fleur Delacour use this charm underwater in the second task of the Triwizard Tournament^[GF Ch.26]. In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, it is described as used by many Hogwarts students when walking through the hallways, because of the bad smells caused by the various pranks played on Dolores Umbridge^[OP Ch.30].

C

(Caterwauling Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Anyone entering the perimeter of a Caterwauling Charm sets off a high-pitched shriek.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, cast by Death Eaters

over Hogsmeade to protect against intruders.^[DH Ch.28]

Note: Similar to an intruder charm: they both produce an alarm if the vicinity is disturbed.

Cave Inimicum

Pronunciation: KAH-vay ih-NIH-mih-kum (IPA: /'kæ.ve ɪ.'ni.mi.kʌm/)

Description: Spell used to strengthen an enclosure from enemies.

Seen/Mentioned: Shown only in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, cast by Hermione and Harry to strengthen their campsites' defences^[DH Ch.22].

(Cheering Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes the person upon whom the spell was cast to become happy and contented, though heavy-handedness with the spell may cause the person to break into an uncontrollable laughing fit.

Seen/Mentioned: First seen in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.^[PA Ch.15]

Colloportus

Pronunciation: cul-loh-POR-tus (IPA: /kʊ.lo.'pɔː.təs/)

Description: Magically locks a door, preventing it from being opened by Muggle means.^[7]

Seen/Mentioned: First in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, cast by Hermione in the Department of Mysteries.

Notes: This spell functions as the counter spell to Alohomora

(Colour-Change Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown. A highly unlikely incantation is attempted by Ron Weasley in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*^[PS Ch.6].

Description: Changes an object's colour.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in Harry's Ordinary Wizarding Levels in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*^[OP Ch.31].

***Confringo* (Blasting Curse)**

Pronunciation: con-FRIN-goh (hard "g") or con-FRIN-joh (IPA: /kʌn.'fɪŋ.gəʊ/ or /kʌn.'fɪn.dʒəʊ/)

Description: Causes anything that the spell comes into contact with to explode.

Seen/Mentioned: Seen only in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. In the opening chapters, it is cast by Harry to destroy the side-car of the flying motorbike^[DH Ch.4]. Later, it is used by Hermione in an attempt to kill Nagini and facilitate an escape from Bathilda Bagshot's house in Godric's Hollow^[DH Ch.17].

***Confundo* (Confundus Charm)**

Pronunciation: con-FUN-doh (IPA: /kʌn.'fʌn.dəʊ/)

Description: Causes the victim to become confused and befuddled.

Seen/Mentioned: First mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, when Severus Snape suggests that Harry and Hermione had been Confunded to believe Sirius

Black's claim to innocence^[PA Ch.21]. In *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, it is suggested that a powerful Confundus Charm is responsible for the Goblet choosing a fourth Triwizard contestant^[GF Ch.17]. It is first seen in action when Hermione uses it on Cormac McLaggen during Quidditch tryouts in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*^[HBP Ch.11]. Its vernacular name is first revealed when Harry uses it on security guards during the Gringotts break-in.

(Conjunctivitus Curse)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: A curse that affects the victim's vision.

Seen/Mentioned: It is suggested by Sirius Black in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* as a means for defeating a dragon for the first task of the Triwizard Tournament, and used by Viktor Krum for this purpose^[GF Ch.19, 20]. Mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* as cast by Madame Maxime against giants^[OP Ch.20].

Crucio (Cruciatus Curse)

Pronunciation: KROO-see-oh (IPA: /'kruː.si.əʊ/)

Description: Inflicts intense pain on the recipient of the curse. One of the three *Unforgivable Curses*.^[8]

Seen/Mentioned: First seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* when it is demonstrated on a spider during a "class demonstration" in a Defence Against the Dark Arts lesson^[GF Ch.14].

(Cushioning Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Creates an invisible cushioned area.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in *Quidditch Through the Ages*, cast on broomsticks to provide a more comfortable ride. Shown in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, used to cushion Harry, Ron, and Hermione's fall in Gringotts and Hogwarts.

D

Defodio (Gouging Spell)

Pronunciation: deh-FOH-dee-oh (IPA: dɛ.'fəʊ.di.əʊ/)

Description: This spell causes deep gouges to appear in the object targeted by the spell.^[9]

Seen/Mentioned: Cast by the three lead characters in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* to help dig their way out of the Gringotts Tunnels^[DH Ch.26].

Deletrius

Pronunciation: deh-LEE-tree-us (IPA: /dɛ.'li.ti.əs/)

Description: An erasure spell. It erases images and magical "after-effects".^[9]

Seen/Mentioned: Seen only in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* when Amos Diggory gets rid of the echo of the Dark Mark from Harry's wand^[GF Ch.9].

Densaugeo

Pronunciation: den-sah-OO-jee-oh /dɛn.'sɔ.dʒi.əʊ/)

Description: This hex makes the victim's teeth grow rapidly.^[9]

Seen/Mentioned: Seen only in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, cast by Draco Malfoy on Harry, which is deflected onto Hermione^[GF Ch.18].

Descendo

Pronunciation: deh-SEN-doh (IPA: /dɛ.'sɛn.dəʊ/)

Description: The spell likely causes any targeted object to move downwards.^[9]

Seen/Mentioned: Seen twice in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, It is cast by Ron to magically cause the stairs in his room to descend^[DH Ch.6], and later by Crabbe in the Room of Requirement to lower the wall behind which Ron is hiding^[DH Ch.31].

Deprimo

Pronunciation: DEH-prih-moh.

Description: This spell places immense downward pressure upon its target, which may result in the violent fracturing of said target.^[9]

Seen/Mentioned: Introduced in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* when a Death Eater is duelling the trio in a diner (resulting in him blowing up the booth) and later when Hermione casts this to blast a hole in the Lovegood's living room floor^[DH Ch.21].

Diffindo (Severing Charm)

Pronunciation: dif-FIN-doh (IPA: /dɪ.'fɪn.dəʊ/)

Description: Tears the target or a specific area on the target.^[9]

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* when Harry urgently wants to talk to Cedric Diggory he casts this spell to rip his bag, delaying him for class^[GF Ch.9] And in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* to switch covers of his potion books . Also shown several times in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, for cutting ropes^[DH Ch.9], chains^[DH Ch.13], etc.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *diffindo*, "I divide."^[3]

Dissendium

Pronunciation: dis-EN-dee-um (IPA: /dɪ.'sɛn.di.əm/)

Description: Causes the statue of the humpbacked witch hiding the secret passage to Honeydukes to open up.^[9]^[PA Ch.10]

Seen/Mentioned: Seen only in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

(Disillusionment Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes the target to become able to change colour to match their background, effectively hiding them without making them invisible,^[9] but it is also stated that powerful wizards, such as Dumbledore or Grindelwald, could cast disillusionment charms so powerful, that they were effectively invisible.

Seen/Mentioned: First in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Alastor Moody casts

this charm on Harry^[OP Ch.3, 4]. Xenophilius Lovegood mentions, in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, that invisibility cloaks are sometimes created by casting a disillusionment charm on a regular cloak^[DH Ch.21].

Notes: The described sensation of a Disillusionment charm is a feeling "something cold and wet trickling down [your] back." When the charm is lifted, the subject feels something hot trickling down their back.^[OP Ch.3, 4]

Duro

Pronunciation: DOO-roh (IPA: /'duː.ɹəʊ/)

Description: Turns its target to stone.^[9]

Seen/Mentioned: Seen in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, cast by Hermione while escaping from Death Eaters in Hogwarts^[DH Ch.32].

E

Engorgio (Engorgement Charm)

Pronunciation: en-GOR-jee-oh (IPA: /ɪn.'ɡɔː.dʒi.əʊ/)

Description: Causes objects to swell in size.

Seen/Mentioned: A "Growth Charm" with the same effect is briefly mentioned. Seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* when Barty Crouch, Jr, impersonating Professor Moody, casts it on a spider to enhance a demonstration of the effects of the Cruciatus Curse. Hagrid is suspected of having performed the charm on his pumpkins^[CS Ch.7], and Ron Weasley suggested it might be the cause of Hagrid's abnormal size before learning that he is half-giant. Cast on a spider by Harry in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Suggested Etymology: The English word *engorged* means "distended" or "swollen" by way of Old French *engorgier*^[5]

Episkey

Pronunciation: eh-PIS-key (IPA: /ɛpɪ'ski/)

Description: Used to heal relatively minor injuries. When this spell is cast, the person feels their injured body part go very hot and then very cold.

Seen/Mentioned: Used in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* after the first task of the Triwizard Tournament. In *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, Nymphadora Tonks uses this spell to fix Harry's broken nose; also used by Harry in the same book to fix Demelza Robins' mouth.

Notes: Rowling writes in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* that Harry's knowledge tells him this spell could belong to a family (or variety) of Healing Spells, in the same way a species of plants belongs to a larger genus.

Erecto

Pronunciation: ee-RECK-toh or eh-RECK-toh (IPA: /ɪ.'ɛk.təʊ/ or /ə.'ɛk.təʊ/)

Description: Used to erect a tent or other structure.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Hermione and Harry to construct shelter for themselves and Ron in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Evanesco (Vanishing Spell)

Pronunciation: ev-an-ES-koh (IPA: (IPA: /ɛ.vən.'ɛs.kəʊ/)

Description: Makes something vanish.

Seen/Mentioned: Used in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by Professor Snape to make Harry's potions disappear from his cauldron. In addition, when Fred and George were showing off their puking pastilles, Lee Jordan cleared the bucket of vomit with the Evanesco spell. During their stay at #12, Grimmauld Place, Bill uses this on a stack of documents. This suggests that Vanished objects can be recovered.

Notes: According to Professor McGonagall, in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Vanished objects and organisms go "*into non-being, which is to say, everything.*" This was McGonagall's response to the question, "*Where do vanished objects go?*" from the door knocker at Ravenclaw Tower.

Expecto Patronum (Patronus Charm)

Pronunciation: ecks-PEK-toh pah-TRO-num (IPA: /ɛks.'pɛk.təʊ pə.'trəʊ.nəm/)

Description: The Patronus Charm is a defensive spell used to conjure an incarnation of the Witch's or Wizard's innermost *positive* emotions to act as a protector against Dementors. It can also be used to send messages.

Seen/Mentioned: First seen in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, when Remus Lupin made the Dementor on the train disappear, though seen without the incantation noticed. Lupin later teaches Harry to use the charm as a defence against Dementors.

Suggested Etymology: See *Patronus Charm* article.

Expelliarmus

Pronunciation: ex-pel-ee-AR-mus (IPA: /ɛks.,pɛ.li.'a-.mɪs/)

Description: This spell is used to disarm another wizard, typically by causing the victim's wand to fly out of reach^{[8][10]}. It can also throw the target backwards when enough power is put into it. As demonstrated in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, simultaneous use of this spell by multiple witches or wizards on a single person can throw the wizard back with much greater force.

Seen/Mentioned: First seen in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, when Professor Snape disarms Professor Lockhart in the Dueling Club; from then on it is commonly throughout the rest of the series. Draco Malfoy uses it to disarm Albus Dumbledore and Harry uses it in the final battle against Voldemort while wielding the Elder Wand. It is seen by the Death Eaters as Harry's signature spell, as he had used it to duel Voldemort in both *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Expulso

Pronunciation: ecks-PUL-soh (IPA: /ɛks.'pʊl.səʊ/)

Description: A curse which causes that with which it comes into contact to explode violently. Similar to the *Blasting Curse*, which also causes its target to explode.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by a Death Eater in an attempt to capture Harry in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

F

Ferula

Pronunciation: feh-ROO-lah (IPA: /fɛ.'ʃu.lə/)

Description: Creates a bandage and a splint.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Remus Lupin in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* to bind Ron's broken leg.

(Fidelius Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: A charm involving secret information hidden within the soul of a *Secret-Keeper*. This information is irretrievable until the Secret-Keeper chooses to reveal it; those who have the secret revealed to them cannot reveal it to others.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, it is explained that when Harry was an infant, he and his parents, James and Lily Potter, were hidden from Lord Voldemort by this charm. Later, in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the charm is used to hide the location of the headquarters for the Order of the Phoenix.

Notes: Rowling previously stated that when a Secret-Keeper dies, the Secret they held can never be revealed to anyone else; the people who were told before the Secret-Keeper's death will still know the secret, but after the death of the Secret-Keeper no one new can be brought into the circle of knowledge.^[11] However, in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, it is explained that upon the Keeper's death, all those who have been told the secret become Secret-Keepers in turn, and can pass the secret on to others.

(Fiendfyre)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Fiendfyre is a seemingly unstoppable cursed fire, the flames of which take the shape of fantastic creatures that pursue those caught in its path. It is shown to be capable of destroying Horcruxes.

Seen/Mentioned: Used in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* when Crabbe, Goyle, and Draco Malfoy corner Harry in the Room of Hidden Things (one manifestation of the Room of Requirement). Crabbe casts Fiendfyre, which become flaming beasts that pursue Harry, Ron, and Hermione and devour every object within the Room, including Crabbe and the diadem Horcrux.

Notes: Hermione reveals she was aware that Fiendfyre could potentially destroy a Horcrux but that she never considered using it for that purpose because it was too dangerous to use.

Finite (Incantatem) (Counter-Spell)

Pronunciation: fi-NEE-tay (in-can-TAH-tem) (IPA: /fɪ.'ni.tɛɪ (ɪn.kən.'tæ.dm)/)

Description: Negates many spells or the effects of many spells.

Seen/Mentioned: Professor Snape uses it in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* to restore order in the Dueling Club when Harry and Draco are duelling. Remus Lupin uses the short form "*Finite*" in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Hermione suggests to Ron to attempt to use this spell to stop it raining in Yaxley's office. Harry used *Finite* to counter Crabbe's *Descendo* attack on Ron in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

(Flagrante Curse)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes any object affected to burn human skin when touched.

Seen/Mentioned: Seen in the Lestranges' vault in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, as a criminal deterrent.

Flagrate

Pronunciation: fluh-GRAYT, FLAH-grayt, fluh-GRAH-tay (IPA: /flə.'gɹæ.te/)

Description: With this spell, the caster's wand can leave fiery marks.

Seen/Mentioned: Cast by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* to identify doors of the Department of Mysteries which members of Dumbledore's Army had already opened, by marking them with an 'X'.

(Flame-Freezing Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes fire to become harmless to those caught in it, creating only a gentle, tickling sensation instead of burns.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in the first chapter of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* as used by witches and wizards during medieval burnings.

(Flying Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Cast on broomsticks, and (presumably) magic carpets to make them fly.

Seen/Mentioned: Draco Malfoy mentioned this spell when tauntingly asking Ron Weasley why would anyone cast a Flying Charm on Ron's broomstick in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* during Ron's first Quidditch practice. It is also mentioned in *Quidditch Through the Ages*.

Notes: See Quidditch.

Furnunculus

Pronunciation: fer-NUN-kyoo-lus

Description: Causes the target to become covered in boils.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Harry in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* on Draco Malfoy, but was deflected onto Goyle instead.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *furunculus*, a type of boil.^[5]

G

Geminio

Pronunciation: jeh-MIH-nee-oh or geh-MIH-nee-oh (hard "g") (IPA: /dʒə.'mɪ.ni.əʊ/ or /gə.'mɪ.ni.əʊ/)

Description: Creates a duplicate of any object cast upon.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* to copy Salazar Slytherin's locket in order to hide their tracks from Dolores Umbridge.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *geminus*, meaning twins.

(Gemino Curse)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Whenever an object affected by this curse is touched, it duplicates itself into many useless copies to hide the original.

Seen/Mentioned: Seen in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* when Harry, Ron, Hermione, and Griphook break into the Lestrangle vault in Gringotts. This was also used by Hermione to duplicate the locket Horcrux at the Ministry so Umbridge would not notice its absence.

Glisseo

Pronunciation: GLISS-see-oh or gliss-SAY-oh (IPA: /ˈɡlɪs.si.əʊ/ or /ɡlɪs.'se.əʊ/)

Description: Causes the steps on a stairway to flatten and form a ramp or slide.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Hermione to escape from pursuing Death Eaters in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

(Gripping Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Used to help someone grip something with more effectiveness. This charm is placed upon Quaffles to help Chasers carry the Quaffle whilst simultaneously holding their brooms.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in *Quidditch Through the Ages*.

Notes: See Quidditch.

H

(Hair-Thickening Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Thickens one's hair.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Severus Snape asserts that Alicia Spinnet used it on her eyebrows even though she was obviously hexed by a member of the Slytherin Quidditch team.

Homenum Revelio

Pronunciation: HOM-eh-num reh-VEH-lee-oh (IPA: /ˈhɒ.mɛ.nʌm ɹə.'vɛ.li.əʊ/)

Description: Reveals humans in the vicinity of the caster.

Seen/Mentioned: First used by Dumbledore to detect Harry under his Invisibility Cloak, but first named when used multiple times by various characters in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.^[12]

(Homorphus Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes an Animagus or transfigured object to assume its normal shape.

Seen/Mentioned: According to Gilderoy Lockhart, he used it to force the Wagga Wagga Werewolf to take its human form (*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*).

(Horton-Keitch Braking Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: This spell was first used on the Comet 140 to prevent players from overshooting the goal posts and from flying off-sides.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in *Quidditch Through the Ages* as the charm that gave the Comet 140 an advantage over the Cleansweep.

Notes: See Quidditch.

(Hurling Hex)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes brooms to vibrate violently in the air and try to buck their rider off.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Professor Quirrell may have been casting a wordless and wandless version of this spell on Harry's broom during his Quidditch match. Professor Flitwick suggested that Harry's confiscated Firebolt may be jinxed with this spell.

I

***Impedimenta* (Impediment Jinx, Impediment Curse)**

Pronunciation: im-ped-ih-MEN-tah (IPA: /ɪm.ˌpɛ.dɪ.ˈmɛn.tə/

Description: This hex is capable of tripping, freezing, binding, knocking back and generally impeding the target's progress towards the caster. The extent to which the spell's specific action can be controlled by the caster is not made clear. If this spell does bind it does eventually wear off as stated in *Deathly Hallows*.

Seen/Mentioned: Used in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* when Harry is practising for the third task. Also used by Madam Hooch to momentarily stop Harry from fighting with Draco Malfoy. Also seen toward the end of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, when Harry is fighting the Death Eaters. Stronger uses of this spell seem capable of blowing targets away.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *impedimentum* (plural *impedimenta*),^[5] "a hindrance" or "an impediment".

***Imperio* (Imperius Curse)**

Pronunciation: im-PEER-ee-oh (IPA: [ɪm.ˈpi.ɹi.əʊ]) (classical Latin: eem-PEHR-ee-oh (IPA: [im.ˈpɛr.i.ɔ]))

Description: One of the three "Unforgivable Curses". Places the subject in a dream-like state, in which he or she is utterly subject to the will of the caster. However, those who are strong willed may learn to resist it.^[HP4]

Seen/Mentioned: Used on many occasions. First seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* when Barty Crouch Jr, impersonating ex-Auror Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody, uses it on a spider and later on students during a "class demonstration" in a Defence Against the Dark Arts lecture. While breaking into Gringotts in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Harry uses it on a goblin and a Death Eater when they became suspicious.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *impero*, "I command", and English *imperious*.^[5]

(Imperturbable Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Makes objects such as doors impenetrable (by everything, including sounds and objects).

Seen/Mentioned: The spell is used in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by Hermione to trap Rita Skeeter within a bottle while she was in beetle form. It was also used by Mrs Weasley in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* on the door of the room in which an Order of the Phoenix meeting was being held, in order to prevent her sons, Fred and George, from eavesdropping

***Impervius* (Impervius Charm)**

Pronunciation: im-PURR-vee-uss (IPA: [ɪm.ˈpɜː.vi.ɛs])

Description: This spell makes something repel (literally, become impervious to) substances and outside forces, including water.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* on Harry's glasses while in a Quidditch match and also by the Gryffindor Quidditch team in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, both times to allow team members to see in a driving rain. Also used in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, first by Ron to protect objects in Yaxley's office from rain, and then by Hermione in an attempt to protect Harry, Ron and Griphook from the burning treasure in the Lestranges' vault.

Incarcerous

Pronunciation: in-CAR-ser-us (IPA: [ɪn.'kɑɪ.sɜː.ɪs])

Description: Ties someone or something up with ropes.

Seen/Mentioned: First heard in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, when Dolores Umbridge gets in a battle with the centaurs. Also used by Harry on the Inferi in Lord Voldemort's Horcrux chamber, in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

Incendio

Pronunciation: in-SEN-dee-oh (IPA: [ɪn.'sɛn.di.əʊ])

Description: Produces fire.^[8]

Seen/Mentioned: It is first seen in *Philosopher's Stone* when Hagrid produces fire out of his umbrella in the little house the Dursleys took refuge in (from the Hogwarts letters). In *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, this spell is used several times in battle, for instance when Hagrid's hut is set ablaze.

(Intruder Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Detects intruders and sounds an alarm.

Seen/Mentioned: Horace Slughorn had it on a temporary Muggle owned house he was living in, allowing him to detect Albus Dumbledore and Harry as they approached in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

J

(Jelly-Legs Jinx)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: A jinx that renders its victim's legs temporarily useless, leaving them to wobble around helplessly until the effect wears off or the counter-jinx is performed.

Seen/Mentioned: First mentioned as one of the jinxes in the book *Curses and Counter-Curses*.^[PS Ch.5] Then used by Harry practising for the Third Task of the Triwizard Tournament, by Hermione.^[GF Ch.31] After the tournament, Malfoy, Crabbe and Goyle tried to harass Harry and were hit with a few hexes, curses and jinxes, including the Jelly-Legs Jinx.^[GF Ch.37]

K

(Knee-Reversal Hex)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Seen/Mentioned: In *Quidditch Through the Ages*, Gertie Keddle uses this hex when a man playing an early form of Quidditch comes to retrieve his ball from her garden.

L

Langlock

Pronunciation: LAN-glock (IPA: [ˈleɪŋ.lɒk])

Description: Glues the subject's tongue to the roof of their mouth. Created by Severus Snape.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Harry in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* on Peeves and also on Argus Filch, to general applause.

Legilimens (Legilimency Spell)

Pronunciation: Le-JIL-ih-mens (IPA: [lɛ.ˈdʒɪl.i.ɪ.mɛnz])

Description: Allows the caster to delve into the mind of the victim, allowing the caster to see the memories, thoughts, and emotions of the victim.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Professor Snape on Harry during Occlumency lessons in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Also used non-verbally by Snape on Harry in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* to allow him to see where Harry had learned the Sectumsempra spell.

Notes: See also Legilimency for more information.

Levicorpus

Pronunciation: levi-COR-pus (nonverbal) (IPA: [lɛvɪ.ˈkɔɹ.pɪs])

Description: The victim is dangled upside-down by their ankles, sometimes accompanied by a flash of light.^[13]

Seen/Mentioned: It was originally shown to be a nonverbal-only spell, but it is whispered by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Harry learns it by reading the notes written by the Half-Blood Prince. He inadvertently uses it on Ron in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Harry had seen (through the Pensieve) his father, James Potter, use the spell against Professor Snape. In the game *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (video game)*, it is used as a combat spell, where it is also verbal.

Liberacorpus

Pronunciation: lib-er-ah-COR-pus (nonverbal) (IPA: [lɪ.b.ɛ.ɹ.æ.ˈkɔɹ.pɪs])

Description: The counterspell to *Levicorpus*.

Seen/Mentioned: Harry uses the spell in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* to counteract the *Levicorpus* spell he inadvertently casts on Ron.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *liberare*, "to free", and *corpus*, "body".^[3]

Locomotor

Pronunciation: loh-koh-MOH-tor (IPA: /ˌlo.ko.ˈmo.tə/))

Description: The spell is always used with the name of a target, at which the wand is pointed (e.g. "*Locomotor Trunk!*"). The spell causes the named object to rise in the air and move around at the will of the caster.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Nymphadora Tonks in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* to move Harry's trunk from his room. Professor Flitwick similarly uses it to move Professor Trelawney's trunk after Professor Umbridge sacks her. Parvati Patil and Lavender Brown use this spell to race their pencil cases around the edges of the table. A variation seen in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is *Piertotum Locomotor*, which animated the suits of armour in Hogwarts.

Locomotor Mortis (Leg-Locker Curse)

Pronunciation: loh-koh-MOH-tor MOR-tis (IPA: /ˌlo.ko.'mo.təː 'moʊ.tɪs/

Description: Locks the legs together, preventing the victim from moving the legs in any fashion.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Draco Malfoy on Neville Longbottom in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Used by Harry on Draco Malfoy, who deflects it, in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

Lumos

Pronunciation: LOO-mos (IPA: [ˈlu.məʊs])

Description: Creates a narrow beam of light that shines from the wand's tip, like a torch. [8]

Seen/Mentioned: Constantly throughout the series.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *lumen*, "light". [3][5]

Notes: The counterspell, Nox, extinguishes the light.

M

Meteoljinx Recanto

Pronunciation: mee-tee-OH-loh-jincks reh-CAN-toh.

Description: Causes weather effects caused by incantations to cease.

Seen/Mentioned: Suggested in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by Arthur Weasley to Ron (disguised by the *Polyjuice Potion* as Reginald 'Reg' Cattermole from Magical Maintenance) as the best way to clear up the incessant rain in Yaxley's office at the Ministry of Magic.

Mobiliarbus

Pronunciation: MO-bil-ee-AR-bus (IPA: [məʊ.bɪl.i.'aɪ.bɪs])

Description: Lifts a tree a few inches off the ground and levitates it where the caster points their wand.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Hermione uses the spell to move a Christmas Tree in The Three Broomsticks beside her table to hide Harry, who was in Hogsmeade illegally.

Mobilicorpus

Pronunciation: MO-bil-ee-COR-pus (IPA: /mo.bɪl.i.'koʊ.pɪs/)

Description: Lifts a body a few inches off the ground and levitates it where the caster points their wand [8]

Seen/Mentioned: Sirius Black uses it on Severus Snape in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

Morsmordre (Dark Mark)

Pronunciation: morz-MOR-druh or morz-MOHR-dray (IPA: /mo~z.'mo~.dɹʌ/ or /mo~z.'mo~.dɹe/)

Description: Conjures the Dark Mark.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Barty Crouch Jr in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Also seen in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* over the castle to lure Professor Dumbledore to his death. It was apparently invented by Lord Voldemort. According to Arthur Weasley, very few wizards know how to cast this spell.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *mors*, "death", and French *mordre* (from Latin *mordere*), "to bite."^[5]

Muffliato

Pronunciation: muf-lee-AH-to (IPA: [mə.fli.'a.təʊ])

Description: Fills peoples' ears with an unidentifiable buzzing to keep them from hearing nearby conversations.^[13]

Seen/Mentioned: It is used in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by Harry and Ron on various teachers and people such as Madam Pomfrey. It is also used in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by Hermione in protection of the campsite where she and Harry stayed in hiding.

N

Nox

Pronunciation: Noks (IPA: ['naks])

Description: Turns off the light produced by the *Lumos* spell.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, Harry and Hermione used this spell to turn off their wand-lights in the Shrieking Shack. Also used in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* when Harry was in the passage beneath the Whomping Willow which leads to the Shrieking Shack.

O

(Obliteration Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Removes things not wished to be seen again.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* to remove the footprints that she, Harry, and Ron left in the snow. Also used in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by Hermione to remove the footprints she and Harry leave behind them in the snow as they journey through Godric's Hollow.

Notes: The above instance in book five only reveals that the *Obliteration Charm* can remove footprints. There is no explanation as to what effect it can have on other things.

Obliviate (Memory Charm, Memory-Modifying Charm)

Pronunciation: oh-BLI-vee-ate (IPA: [əʊ.'bli.vi.eɪt])

Description: Used to hide a memory of a particular event.

Seen/Mentioned: First used in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* by Gilderoy

Lockhart on Harry and Ron; the spell backfired due to a faulty wand, causing Lockhart to lose most of his own memory. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Hermione uses the spell on two Death Eaters who had followed Harry, Ron, and Hermione after their escape from Bill Weasley's and Fleur Delacour's wedding.

Notes: This spell differs from the False Memory Charm.

Obscuro

Pronunciation: ob-SK(Y)OOR-oh (IPA: /ɒb.'sk(j)u.ɹəʊ/)

Description: Causes a blindfold to appear over the victim's eyes, obstructing their view of their surroundings.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* to obstruct the portrait of Phineas Nigellus' view of their location.

Oppugno

Pronunciation: oh-PUG-noh (IPA: /ə.'pʊɡ.no/)

Description: causes conjured objects to attack.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* to attack Ron Weasley with a conjured flock of canaries.

Orchideous

Pronunciation: or-KID-ee-us (IPA: /o~.'kɪ.di.əs/)

Description: Makes a bouquet of flowers appear out of the caster's wand.

Seen/Mentioned: Used in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by Mr Ollivander to test Fleur Delacour's wand.

P

Pack

Pronunciation: As in English: IPA: [pæk]

Description: Packs a trunk, or perhaps any luggage.

Seen/Mentioned: Used in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by Remus Lupin in his office, and in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by Nymphadora Tonks, once verbally and again non-verbally.

(Permanent Sticking Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Makes objects permanently stay in place.

Seen/Mentioned: First mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Sirius Black suspects that his mother's painting was fixed to the wall with such a Charm. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Harry discovers that it was used by Sirius to permanently affix his pictures to the wall in his room.

Petrificus Totalus (Full Body-Bind Curse)

Pronunciation: pe-TRI-fi-cus to-TAH-lus (IPA: [pə.'trɪ.fə.kəs 'təʊ.tl.əs])

Description: Used to temporarily bind the victim's body in a position much like that of a soldier at attention; the victim will usually fall to the ground.^[8]

Seen/Mentioned: First used in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by Hermione, who was trying to prevent Neville from stopping her, Ron, and Harry from leaving the common room to hunt for the Philosopher's Stone.^[PS Ch.16] It is then used throughout the rest of the series, especially during the Battle of the Department of Mysteries in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

Peskipiksi Pesternomi

Pronunciation: PES-key PIX-ee PES-ter NO-mee

Description: The one time it was uttered, it had absolutely no effect.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Gilderoy Lockhart to attack Cornish pixies.^[CS Ch.6]

Piertotum Locomotor

Pronunciation: pee-ayr-TOH-tum (or peer-TOH-tum) loh-koh-MOH-tor (IPA: [piɛ-.ˈtoʊ.təm] (or piɛ.ˈtoʊ.təm) lo.ko.ˈmoʊ.tə-])

Description: Spell used to animate statues and suits of armour to do the caster's bidding.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Professor McGonagall uses this spell to animate the suits of armour and statues within Hogwarts to defend the castle.^[14]

Point Me (Four-Point Spell)

Pronunciation: As in English (IPA: [ˈpɔɪnt ˈmi])

Description: Causes the caster's wand tip to point to the north cardinal point, acting like a compass.

Seen/Mentioned: By Harry during the third task of the Triwizard Tournament in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*.

Portus

Pronunciation: POR-tus (IPA: [ˈpɔɪ.tɪs])

Description: Turns an object into a portkey

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Professor Dumbledore in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

Notes: Portkeys were first seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* as a means for Harry, Hermione, and the Weasleys to go to the Quidditch World Cup. However, the spell used in its creation was not seen until *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* when Albus Dumbledore creates a Portkey to get Harry to safety.

Prior Incantato

Pronunciation: pri-OR in-can-TAH-toh

Description: Causes the echo (a shadow or image) of the last spell cast by a wand to emanate from it.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Amos Diggory in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* to discover the last spell cast by Harry's wand after it was found in the hands of Winky, a house-elf. Mentioned in *Deathly Hallows* as a means of discovering that Harry had been casting spells with Hermione's wand (implying that his own was broken).

(Protean Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes copies of an object to be remotely affected by changes made to the original.

Seen/Mentioned: First used in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Hermione put the charm on a number of fake Galleons^[7]. Instead of the serial number around the edge of the coin, the time and date of the next meeting of Dumbledore's Army appeared. Said to be a spell at NEWT level.

Protego (Shield Charm)

Pronunciation: pro-TAY-goh (IPA: [pɹəʊ.'teɪ.gəʊ])

Description: The Shield Charm causes minor to moderate jinxes, curses, and hexes to rebound upon the attacker.^[10]

Seen/Mentioned: First seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, in which Harry is taught this spell by Hermione in preparation for the third task in the Triwizard Tournament. It is then used throughout the rest of the series.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *protego*, or "I protect".^[3]

Protego Horribilis

Pronunciation: pro-TAY-goh horr-uh-BIL-lis (IPA: [pɹəʊ.'teɪ.gəʊ ˌhɔɪ.ə.'bɪ.lɪs])

Description: Provides some form of protection against dark magic.

Seen/Mentioned: Cast by Professor Flitwick in an attempt to strengthen the castle's defences in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

Suggested Etymology: Latin *Protego*, "I protect"^[3] and *Horribilis*, "horrible , frightful, dreadful".

Protego Totalum

Pronunciation: pro-TAY-go/prah-TEH-go toh-TAH-lum (IPA: [pɹəʊ.'teɪ.gəʊ təʊ.'tæ.lɪm])

Description: Provides protection of some form for an area or dwelling.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, this is one of the spells used by Hermione and Harry to protect their camp site from unwanted visitors.

Q

Quietus

Pronunciation: KWEY-uh-tus (IPA: ['kwi.eɪ.tɪs])

Description: Makes a magically magnified voice return to normal.

Seen/Mentioned: Used in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by Ludo Bagman.

Notes: Functions as the counterspell to *Sonus*.

R

Reducio

Pronunciation: re-DOO-see-oh (IPA: [ɹɛ.'du.si.əʊ])

Description: Makes an enlarged object smaller. Counter-charm to *Engorgio*.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *Reducere*, "to shrink".^[5]

Reducto (Reductor Curse)

Pronunciation: re-DUK-toh (IPA: [ɹɛ.'dʌk.təʊ])

Description: Disintegrates or destroys objects in the caster's path.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Harry uses it on one of the hedges of the Triwizard maze and ends up burning a small hole in it; in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Gryffindors in Harry's year reference Parvati Patil as being able to reduce a table full of dark detectors to ashes; in *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, a member of the Order of the Phoenix attempts to use this spell to break down a door which Death Eaters have blocked when the Death Eaters have cornered Dumbledore in the Lightning Struck Tower. Ginny (Ginevra) Weasley uses this spell in the movie of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* to bring down shelves of prophecies on the Death Eaters, in the Department of Mysteries.

(Refilling Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Refills whatever the caster points at with the drink originally in the container.

Seen/Mentioned: Used in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, when Harry notices that Hagrid and Professor Slughorn are running out of mead.

Relashio

Pronunciation: Re-LASH-ee-oh (IPA: [ɹɛ.'læ.ʃi.əʊ])

Description: A charm used to force someone or something to release that which it holds or grapples by means of shooting fiery sparks out or, underwater, shooting hot bursts of water. Also causes victim of spell to simply release whatever they are holding at the time.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Harry against Grindylows in the second task of the Triwizard Tournament. When used more expertly by Bob Ogden in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, it threw Marvolo Gaunt backwards after an attempted attack. Hermione uses it in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* to free Mrs. Cattermole from the chained chair.

Rennervate

Pronunciation: ree-NUR-vayt (IPA: [ɹi.nəɹ.'veɪt])

Description: Brings someone out of unconsciousness.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Amos Diggory uses it to wake up Winky and Professor Dumbledore uses it to wake up Viktor Krum and Barty Crouch Jr. In *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, Harry later uses it to try and reawaken a cursed Dumbledore in the seaside cave.

Suggested Etymology: Officially renamed from *Ennervate* by J.K. Rowling^[15] from the prefix "re-" would come from Latin *re-*, "again" and "en-" Old French from "in-" L. cause to be + "nerves" Eng. c.1603 strength, from "nervus" L. nerve^[16]

Notes: Counterspell to Stupefy; when this spell is cast, red light is emitted.

Reparo

Pronunciation: reh-PAH-roh (IPA: [ɹɛ.'pɑ.ɹəʊ])

Description: Used to repair broken or damaged objects.^[8]

Seen/Mentioned: Countless times throughout the books. Shattered objects are often described as having "flown" back together. However, substances contained within broken objects are not restored.

Repello Muggletum (Muggle-Repelling Charm)

Pronunciation: reh-PELL-loh MUG-ul-tum or MUGG-gleh-tum or mugg-GLEE-tum (IPA: /ɹə.'pɛl.əʊ 'mʊ.gl.ɫəm/ or /'mʊ.glə.ɫəm/ or /mʊ.'gli.ɫəm/)

Description: Keeps Muggles away from wizarding places by causing them to remember important meetings they missed and to cause the Muggles in question to forget what they were doing.

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned in *Quidditch Through the Ages* as being used to keep Muggles away from the Quidditch World Cup. Hogwarts was also said to be guarded by the Muggle-Repelling Charm. It is also used by Harry and Hermione on numerous occasions, among many other spells, to protect and hide their camp site in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Rictusempra (Tickling Charm)

Pronunciation: ric-tuh-SEM-pra

Description: The subject experiences the sensation of being tickled.

Seen/Mentioned: By Harry on Draco Malfoy in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, when they fought in the Duelling Club.

Notes: This spell takes the form of a jet of silver light.

Riddikulus (Boggart-Banishing Spell)

Pronunciation: rih-dih-KYU-lus

Description: A spell used when fighting a Boggart, "Riddikulus" forces the Boggart to take the appearance of an object upon which the caster is concentrating. When used correctly this will be a humorous form.

Seen/Mentioned: First seen in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, when taught by Professor Lupin. Seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* on a boggart that was in the maze in the Third Task.

Suggested Etymology: Latin word *ridiculus*, "laughable".^[5]

Notes: The effect depends on what the caster is thinking. Neville concentrates on his grandmother's dress, causing a Boggart in the form of Snape to appear in it.

S

Salvio Hexia

Pronunciation: SAL-vee-oh HECKS-ee-ah

Description: Provides some form of protection to an area or dwelling.

Seen/Mentioned: Harry and Hermione cast this spell to strengthen their campsite's defences against intruders in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Scourgify (Scouring Charm)

Pronunciation: SKUR-jih-fy

Description: Used to clean something.^{[7][8]}

Seen/Mentioned: First used by Nymphadora Tonks to clean Hedwig's cage in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Later, Ginny Weasley performs the spell to clean up Stinksap in the Hogwarts Express.

Sectumsempra

Pronunciation: sec-tum-SEMP-rah [ˌsɛktəm'sɛmp.rə]

Description: Creates terrible wounds to the target, described as being as though the subject had been "slashed by a sword".^[13]

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Harry in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* against Draco Malfoy, and then later against both the Inferi in Lord Voldemort's Horcrux chamber, and Snape during his flight from Hogwarts. In the opening chapters of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Snape accidentally casts this curse against George Weasley in the Order's flight from Privet Drive, though George was not his intended target. ^[DH Ch.3] It is known as specialty of Snape's. ^[DH Ch.5]

Notes: Though Severus Snape was able to mend the wounds inflicted on Draco Malfoy by this curse with ease, with "an incantation that sounded almost like song", Molly Weasley was unable to heal her son George Weasley, when his ear was severed by the curse. It was discovered in an old copy of *Advanced Potion Making* by Harry that was invented by Severus Snape with the words "For enemies" written next to it.

Serpensortia

Pronunciation: ser-pen-SOR-shah [ˌsɛɪpən'sɔːtʃə]

Description: Conjures a serpent from the spellcaster's wand.^[8]

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Draco Malfoy while dueling Harry in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

Silencio (Silencing Charm)

Pronunciation: sih-LEN-see-oh [si'lɛnsi.ə]

Description: Silences something immediately ^[7]^[8]

Seen/Mentioned: First used by Hermione in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* to silence a frog and a raven in Charms class, then later to silence a Death Eater that was trying to shout for help.

(Slug-Vomiting Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: A jet of green light strikes the victim, who then vomits slugs for several minutes.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, Ron Weasley attempts to use it on Draco Malfoy; the spell backfired and hit him instead. Mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* before Gryffindor's first Quidditch Match against Slytherin when Draco taunts Ron, "Harry was reminded forcibly of the time that Ron had accidentally put a Slug-Vomiting Charm on himself". ^[OP Ch.19]

Sonorus

Pronunciation: soh-NOh-rus[so'noʊəs]

Description: Magnifies the spellcaster's voice, functioning as a magical megaphone

Seen/Mentioned: By Ludo Bagman and Cornelius Fudge in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* to commentate at the Quidditch World Cup. Also used by Professor Dumbledore to silence everyone in the Great Hall in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Used by Lord Voldemort several times during the Battle of Hogwarts in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *sonor*, "sound"; English *sonorous*.^[5]

Notes: The counter-spell is *Quietus*.

***Specialis Revelio* (Scarpin's Revelaspell)**

Pronunciation: speh-see-AHLIS reh-VEL-ee-oh

Description: Causes an object to show its hidden secrets or magical properties.

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Hermione to find out more of Harry's Advanced Potion-Making book in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Used by Ernie Macmillan to find out ingredients of a potion.

(Stealth Sensoring Spell)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Detects those under magical disguise.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Professor Umbridge casts this around her office.

(Stinging Hex, Stinging Jinx)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Produces a stinging sensation in the victim, resulting in angry red welts and occasionally the severe inflammation of the affected area.

Seen/Mentioned: Harry inadvertently casts one on Professor Snape during Occlumency lessons in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Hermione casts the Stinging Hex on Harry in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* to purposefully distort Harry's appearance.

***Stupefy* (Stunning Spell, Stupefying Charm)**

Pronunciation: STEW-puh-fye

Description: Puts the victim in an unconscious state. Manifests as a beam of red light.

Seen/Mentioned: Throughout the series; particularly by a number of wizards and witches (including Dolores Umbridge) against Professor McGonagall in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. It is also taught by Harry in his D.A. meetings and used extensively during the Battle of the Department of Mysteries against the Death Eaters.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *stupefacere*, *stupere*, "to be stunned". ^[5] Cf. English *stupor*.

Notes: Does not work properly on some magical beings and beasts. Rubeus Hagrid was able to withstand multiple direct Stunners due to being half-giant, and *Goblet of Fire* shows six to seven wizards being needed, working in unison, to Stun a single dragon.

(Supersensory Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Able to possess superior senses than before

Seen/Mentioned: Mentioned by Ron outside of the Hogwarts Express during the epilogue of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* as a potential substitute for using mirrors while driving a Muggle automobile.

(Switching Spell)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes two objects to be switched for one another

Seen/Mentioned: Harry contemplates using this spell against his dragon in the first task of the Triwizard Tournament. Neville also uses this in Transfiguration class in *Harry Potter and*

the Goblet of Fire, and accidentally transplants his ears onto a cactus.

T

(The Taboo)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: A jinx which may be placed upon a word or a name, so that whenever that word is spoken, a magical disturbance is created which alerts the caster of the Taboo to the location of the speaker.

Seen/Mentioned: In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, this spell is placed on the word "Voldemort"; in this manner Harry Potter, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger are tracked throughout their journey until Ron discovers the Taboo and tells the other two to stop using the word. Later in the book, Harry accidentally says Voldemort's name again, resulting in the trio being caught and taken to Malfoy Manor.

Tarantallegra

Pronunciation: ta-RON-tuh-LEG-rah

Description: Makes victim's legs dance uncontrollably, so the victim cannot control his or her movements (recalling the tarantella dance).

Seen/Mentioned: First used by Draco Malfoy on Harry in the Dueling Club in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. In *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, a counterjinx is mentioned but not named. It is notably used against Neville Longbottom in the Department of Mysteries, causing the prophecy to be broken.

Suggested Etymology: Tarantula, a spider; Spanish *tarantella*, a kind of fast country dance once popular in parts of Italy, supposedly from the frantic motion caused by the bite of a tarantula; *allegro*, a musical term meaning "quick".^[5]

Tergeo

Pronunciation: TUR-jee-oh (IPA: [ˈtʰɜː.dʒi.əʊ])

Description: Siphons material from a surface, e.g. blood, ink, dust, etc.

Seen/Mentioned: Hermione uses this spell in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* to remove blood from Harry's face. It was used in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* to clean off a handkerchief by Ron Weasley, and to dust off a picture of Gellert Grindelwald in Bathilda Bagshot's house.

Suggested Etymology: Latin *tergeo*: "I rub clean, wipe, polish".^[3]

(Tongue-Tying Curse)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: A curse which prevents certain information from being revealed by the individual upon whom the spell is placed. The curse manifests itself by causing the tongue to temporarily curl backwards upon itself.

Seen/Mentioned: First mentioned as one of the spells in *Curses and*

Counter-Curses.^[PS Ch.5] Seen in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* as a deterrent to Severus Snape, or any other unwanted visitor of Number 12 Grimmauld Place, from betraying their location to anyone else.

(Trip Jinx)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes the victim of the jinx to trip and fall.^[HP5]

Seen/Mentioned: Used by Draco Malfoy in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, to catch Harry when he was fleeing after Dumbledore's Army was discovered.

U

(Unbreakable Vow)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes a vow taken by a witch or wizard to be inviolable; if they should break it, the consequence is death.

Seen/Mentioned: Severus Snape takes an Unbreakable Vow with Narcissa Malfoy at the beginning of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, vowing to help Narcissa's son Draco with a task given to him by Voldemort, and to finish the task should Draco prove incapable. Fred and George Weasley attempted to force an Unbreakable Vow upon Ron Weasley as children; when their father discovered this, he punished them severely. According to Fred and George, it causes death when the vow is broken.

(Undetectable Extension Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes a container's capacity to be increased, without changing the object's external appearance.

Seen/Mentioned: This spell is used by Arthur Weasley to allow eight people, six large trunks, two owls, and a rat to fit comfortably inside his modified Ford Anglia in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Hermione casts this spell upon her handbag in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

(Unplottable Charm)

Pronunciation: Unknown

Description: Causes buildings or locations unable to be plotted on a map.

Seen/Mentioned: First mentioned by Hermione as she wonders whether Durmstrang and Beauxbatons are Unplottable.^[GF Ch.11] It is also mentioned that Number Twelve, Grimmauld Place is Unplottable^[OP Ch.06].

W

Waddiwasi

Pronunciation: wah-dee-WAH-see

Description: Appears to launch small objects through the air.

Seen/Mentioned: Used only once in the series, by Remus Lupin in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* to expel a wad of chewing gum from the key hole Peeves put it in, launching it up Peeves's nose.

Wingardium Leviosa (Levitation Charm)

Pronunciation: win-GAR-dee-um lev-ee-OH-sa (IPA: [wɪn.'gɑː.di.ʌm lɛ.vi.'əʊ.sə])

Description: Levitates objects.^{[8][2]}

Seen/Mentioned: First seen in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, when Professor Flitwick's first-year class practice the spell. Later in the same book, Ron Weasley performs the spell on the club of a mountain troll. The spell is also used in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by Harry to levitate the sidecar of a flying motorbike and by Ron to levitate a branch to prod the knot which freezes the Whomping Willow.

See also

- Magic (Harry Potter)
- Magical Objects in Harry Potter

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External links

- Encyclopedia of Spells at the Harry Potter Lexicon

(<http://www.hp-lexicon.org/magic/spells/spells.html>)

- Complete list of spells at MuggleNet
(<http://www.mugglenet.com/infosection/spells/index.shtml>)

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